

REMARKS

This submission is in response to the Official Action dated October 12, 2004. Reconsideration of the above identified application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1 and 5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Claims 2, 4, and 6 have been amended.

No new matter is added.

Claims 2-4 and 6-20 are presently pending.

Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected.

Claims 2-4 and 6-9 are objected to.

Claims 10-20 have been allowed.

II. Acknowledgement of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 2-4, 6-9, and 10-20. Claims 2-4 and 6-9 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 2, 4, and 6 have been amended to be in independent form and are therefore in condition for allowance. Claims 3 and 7-9 depend on claims 2, 4, and 6 and are also in condition for allowance.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,151,544 to Amisano, et al. Claims 1 and 5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Hence, the rejection of claims 1 and 5 has been rendered moot. Based on the foregoing, the rejection of claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

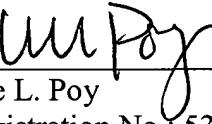
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: December 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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